

Task Force on Strengthening the Child Welfare Workforce for Children and Families
WebEx/Conference Call

July 1, 2020 – 10:00-11:00a.m.
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT (in person)	MEMBERS PRESENT (via phone)	MEMBERS ABSENT
N/A - WebEx	Sen. Julie Morrison	Sen. Steve McClure
	Rep. Mary Edly-Allen	Rep. Steven Reick
	Sen. Craig Wilcox	Rep. Mike Marron
	Denice Murray	Jan Stepto-Millett
	Mark Stutrud	
	Anne Irving	
	Betsy Goulet	
	Paola Baldo	
	Deb McCarrel	
	Royce Kirkpatrick	
	Lisa Jones	
	Rep. Karina Villa	
	Sen. Robert Peters	

I. Welcome and Call to Order

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

Sen. Julie Morrison motioned for approval of the June minutes, Betsy Goulet seconded. The minutes approved were approved by majority vote.

III. Update on Student Loan Forgiveness Pilots

Helena Buckner, with DCFS appearing on behalf on Meaghan Jorgensen, reported that the internal DCFS team met on 6/29/2020 to discuss the Stipend Pilot Program. The same teams have scheduled to meet again on 7/6/2020. Partners will be public universities under the degrees under procurement code. The pilot will include junior and senior level bachelor and master's programs as well as degrees related to social work. The pilot program plans to be partnering with schools that have a dedicated child welfare track where graduates will receive their CWEL. Pilot participants will be required to work on the POS side. Any additional feedback and recommendations should be can be related to Helena Buckner.

Senator Julie Morrison asked Helena if a document of prelim recommendations could be sent in writing. Helena said yes. There were no other questions or comments.

IV. Racial Equity in Recruitment/Retention

Senator Julie Morrison addressed the group asking for an update. No comments were made. Senator Julie Morrison suggested the topic be address in an open forum. Denice Murry suggested that goals be set for numbers of students to recruit on a regular basis and those numbers should be in conjunction with various domains across the department. Representative Mary Edly-Allen discussed the concern of retaining the current workforce. Denice Murry said that retention of the current workforce should be related to time commitment. The amount owed on student loans could be reduced based on length of time with the department. Denice Murry asked what had been done to make determination on why people are leaving the department. Kate Smith said that she’s aware a survey had been done and that responses were low. Monico Whittington-Eskridge commented that no date pool on POS exists and stated that most POS recruits are not coming from social work schools. She suggested that other human service degrees be looked into/considered.

V. Establishment of Subcommittees

The group then discussed and decided to form 3 subcommittees and discussed who would be involved in each committee (see below). Recruitment is to look at criteria and develop protocols to recruit new students. Retention is to look at retention of existing workers. Racial Equity is to look at affirmative action items.

Retention	Recruitment	Racial Equity
Rep. Mary Edly-Allen Mark Stutrud Paola Baldo Deb McCarrel Royce Kirkpatrick Sen. Patrick McGuire	Sen. Julie Morrison Rep. Karina Villa Sen. Craig Wilcox Sarah Tucker Victor Lasko	Rep. Mary Edly-Allen Denice Murray Lisa Jones Monico Whittington-Eskridge

VI. Timeline for Research Components

i: Update on Employer Survey

Michael Braun stated that he is waiting on an email is from “Deb” for additional outreach/follow up. Michael is still working to ensure surveys have been received and reviewed – individual emails and phone calls will likely be necessary.

ii: Update on Literature/ Policy Review

Michael Braun said that they are adding compensation and caseload standards into literature and policy review. Senator Julie Morrison asked about a deadline for the literature review. Michael Braun said he is looking at the end of June or beginning of July 2020. The group discussed the survey for POS employees asking for a follow up from Michael Braun regarding participation.

VII. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2020 from 10am – 11am. Meeting adjourned.